about the hazardous effects of Endosulfan, Government of Kerala constituted an Expert Committee in 2001 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Achuthan. The Committee concluded as follows:—

'There is no evidence to attribute these health problems directly to endosulfan pollution, but there is no evidence to completely deny it".

The Committee also recommended the ban on aerial spraying of pesticides in all cashew plantations in Kasargod district of Kerala, pesticide holiday for five years in Peria Division of Plantation Corporation of Kerala and promotion of Integrated Pest Management. On the direction of National Human Rights Commission, a study has been conducted by the National Institute of Occupational Health (NIOH) of the Indian Council of Medical Research and higher prevalence of unusual diseases like mental retardation, congenital defects and abnormalities of re-productive system in children in the affected villages of Kasargod district of North Kerala has been reported in their first report.

(d) As per the consolidated list of products whose consumption and/ or sale have been banned, withdrawn, severely restricted or not approved by the Government (V Issue United Nations, New York—1994), the use of Endosulfan is banned/severely restricted in about 12 countries of the world viz. Belize, Canada, Dominica, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Singapore, Venezuela, Yugoslavia.

(e) to (g) No request has been received from Kerala Government to ban the use of endosulfan. Moreover, Government of Kerala has banned the aerial spraying of Endosulfan on all crops in the State. Apart from this, there is no ban/restriction on the use of Endosulfan in the country presently. The Registration Committee constituted under Section (5) of the Insecticides Act, 1968 has constituted an Expert Group to study the effects of use of endosulfan in this perspective and make recommendations regarding its continued use/restricted use or otherwise.

Environmental Clearance for Power Project in Gujarat

1808. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for power project in Gujarat is pending for environmental clearance with Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and since when, it has been pending;

(c) the reasons for the pendency thereof; and

(d) by when the proposal is likely to be cleared by Government?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Details of the two power projects proposed in Gujarat which are currently awaiting environmental clearance including reasons for pendency are given in the Statement enclosed. *{See* below)

(d) usually, decisions on projects are taken within 90 days of receipt of complete information.

Statement

List of power project of Gujarat awaiting environmental clearance

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	Date of Receipt	Reasons for Pendency
1.	2x250 MW Improted Coal Based Thermal Power Plant near Village Zarpara, Taluka Mundra, District Kutch of M/s Gujarat Power Corporation Ltd.	03.09.2001	The Project has been apprised in the Ministry and further discussions have been deferred at the request of project authorities.
2.	75 MW Kutch Lignite TPS (Unit-IV) at Panandhro, District Bhuj of M/s Gujarat Electricity Board.	15.12.2001	Project has been discussed in the Expert Committee meeting and project authorities have been requested to submit supplementary information on conformity to Coastal Regulation Zone Notification for the pipeline air quality and status of forest diversion etc. which is still awaited.

Meeting of State Environment Secretaries

1809. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that at the two day meeting of the State